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LETTER DATED 25 AUGUST 1998 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya received the following documents on Monday evening, 24 August 1998:

- Letter from the Deputy Permanent Representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States of America addressed to the Secretary-General;

- Agreement between the Governments of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom concerning Scottish legal proceedings in the Netherlands;

- Proceedings of the Netherlands court, the English version of which we have transmitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and are having translated into Arabic with a view to submitting it as soon as possible to the competent authorities of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for consideration and the appropriate decision.

The Permanent Mission was surprised to learn today that a draft resolution has been presented to the Security Council. Irrespective of the content of that draft, we wish to state the following:

1. The other States which are parties to this dispute took several months to arrive at the formula which was submitted to us yesterday.

2. It took those same States over a month to negotiate and agree on a formula with the Netherlands authorities.

3. This formula was worked out by legal experts of those States.

In recalling these facts, we wish to reiterate to the Council the following:

1. Libya is anxious to arrive at a settlement of tnis dispute and to turn over a new page in its relations with the States concerned.

2. Libya's judicial authorities need to have sufficient time to study those documents and to request the assistance of international experts more familiar with the laws of the States mentioned in the documents.

3. We are absolutely convinced that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, must be given sufficient time to achieve what the Security Council has asked of him, so that any issue or difficulty that might delay the desired settlement can be resolved.

As a result, we request the following:

That a decision on the draft resolution presented to the Security Council be postponed until Libya's judicial authorities have completed their study of the above-mentioned documents and until the Secretary-General of the United Nations has played the role entrusted to him, in order to arrive at practical solutions that can be applied by the different parties, thereby ensuring that the two suspects appear in court in a neutral third country as soon as possible.

In this connection, Libya reiterates its consistent, documented positions to you, the purpose of this request being to confirm that Libya seriously wishes to arrive at a solution and to resolve any complication that might arise.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ramadan A. BARG
Chargé d'affaires a.i.